

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING JESUS E. GARCIA

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell the story of a very special veteran—Jesus E. Garcia who resides in Las Animas, Colorado. He served his country with great honor and courage.

Jesus E. Garcia enlisted in the United States Army in July 26, 1961. He took his basic training in Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. He then spent some time in Germany before being assigned to Ft. Benning. Once in Georgia, he became part of the newly formed First Cavalry Airmobile Division.

Jesus was trained as an infantryman. In July 1965, his division was transferred to Vietnam. Jesus became a member of the First Cavalry Division, 3rd Brigade, 2/7 Battalion, A Company, Weapons Platoon. His Company was sent into the Ia Drang Valley on November 16, 1965, to assist with the Pleiku Campaign. A fierce battle lasting several days had been fought at the LZ Xray site. His company assisted with rescuing and wrapping up the battle, as well as the gruesome cleanup the following day. Most troops were flown out of LZ Xray. All of the 2/7th Battalion had to march to LZ Albany to be airlifted out. Jesus and his platoon were among those that marched. On November 17, 1965 the bloodiest battle of the Vietnam War was fought at LZ Albany. This intense fight cost the lives of over 200 Americans. Two days of brutal combat were then followed by two more days of an unforgettable cleanup and aftermath. The Americans had suffered heavy losses, but not as heavy as the North Vietnamese Army.

In January of 1966, his Battalion was sent to participate in Operation Masher, part of the Bong Son I Campaign. Jesus was to leave by plane with his company to arrive at their destination for the battle. At the last minute, he was taken off the plane as he had been chosen to temporarily fill in as the forward observer with another company. Jesus was requested for this assignment due to his expertise. Therefore, his commanding officer gave him the option of accepting this assignment as it was much more risky than his original orders for this battle. He chose to take the temporary assignment. He was taken off the plane and marched with this company through the jungle to their designated position. Upon his arrival, he learned the plane he was scheduled to ride in had crashed, and everyone on board was killed.

On January 29, 1977, during the battle of Bong Son I, Jesus Garcia's A Company was trying to route the NVA from a fortified trench around a small village. About 100 yards of open rice paddy separated the two lines. It was pouring rain. Repeated attempts to attack and take the position under sniper and ma-

chine gun fire had already cost several lives. As the A Company forward observer, Jesus was ahead of his fellow soldiers as they made another attempt to breach the enemy fortifications. As he advanced, he was shot in the leg; he suffered from a jagged hole in his leg and thigh. Medics were able to retrieve him and drag him back for protection. It was the next day before medical evacuation helicopters were able to retrieve him. His injury was severe and the doctors feared he might not ever walk again. After recovering from his injury in hospitals in Japan and Fitzsimons Army Hospital in Aurora, amazingly, he returned to active duty at Ft. Benning, Georgia in July 1966.

In May 1968, Jesus returned to duty in Vietnam with the 44th Medical Brigade in headquarters Company. He worked in the message center brigade headquarters. He served in this capacity until May 1969, when he returned to the United States to an assignment at Fitzsimons Army Hospital where he remained until 1972, as the Chief Clerk for a medical holding company. In 1972, he was again sent overseas to Germany to work in the Brigade Classified Section of the Headquarters Company at Stuttgart. He left Germany in 1974 and returned back to duty at Fitzsimons. In 1977, again he went overseas to serve in Korea. He was stationed in Taegue in the headquarters mailroom for one year. He returned stateside in 1978 to Ft. Carson, Colorado. He was commander of the Ft. Carson Mounted Color Guard until his retirement in December 1981, in which he received five honorable discharges.

During his military career he received the following awards and decoration: Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star; (5) Good Conduct Medals, (2) Presidential Unit Citations, National Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, (2) Overseas Service Ribbons; Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with 60 Device, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, Air Medal, and Expert Rifleman Badge.

Two books have been written that deal specifically with the cavalry groups Jesus served with and the battles they fought. "Baptism" by Larry Gwinn details the author's year in Vietnam. Gwinn was Garcia's Executive Officer. The second book is entitled "We Were Soldiers Once and Young" and was written by Lt. Gen. Harold Moore and Joseph Galloway. The book is a very graphical and detailed account of LZ Xray and LZ Albany battles and is the basis for a motion picture starring Mel Gibson and Sam Elliott.

Jesus is a life-long resident of Las Animas, Colorado where he still lives with his wife Irene, of 41 years. Together they raised three sons. While providing for his family through his military career, he sacrificed a lot for his country—something he doesn't regret. He gave up his own youth, time with his family and friends, and some peace of mind.

I am proud to honor such a courageous American, husband, and father.

A TRIBUTE TO SPECIAL AGENT
JAMES F. LINDNER

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2002

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a lifetime commitment to patriotism and law and order in the United States. On November 1, 2002, Mr. James F. Lindner will retire as a Special Agent with the United States Naval Criminal Investigative Service, ending some 21 years of federal law enforcement service.

Mr. Lindner began his service to country in 1972 in the United States Army where he was assigned in the Military Police Corps. In 1981, following a brief career as a special investigator with Chase Manhattan Bank, Mr. Lindner was appointed as a Special Agent with the Naval Investigative Service, now known as the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. He embarked on a career that spanned the globe in locations such as Virginia, London, Bahrain, Puerto Rico, Germany, Rhode Island and Washington, DC.

Among his many achievements with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, Special Agent Lindner will long be remembered for his contributions to its Counterintelligence (CI) Program. Under his capable leadership, Mr. Lindner negotiated the Department of the Navy CI policy dealing with Force Protection Response Groups, CI Support to Combatant Commands, CI organization within the DoN and other pivotal policy issues facing the United States Marine Corps and Director of Naval Intelligence.

While employed as a Special Agent, Mr. Lindner was selected for two significant liaison positions. He shared the wisdom of his experience as Chief, Counterintelligence Activities, European Operations, On-Site Inspection Agency (today consolidated with the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). Mr. Lindner also held the distinction as a Naval War College appointee where he completed a Masters degree program in National Security and Strategic Studies and earned the prestigious Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Distinguished Essay Award. While assigned to the War College, Mr. Lindner earned Honorable Mention in the B. Franklin Reinauger Defense Economics Competition.

Mr. President, in closing I wish to commend James F. Lindner for his many accomplished years of outstanding service to our country, and in particular, to the members of the Armed Services. I wish him continued success in his future endeavors and Godspeed in his retirement.

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